



The Uniting Church in Australia  
PINE RIVERS UNITING CHURCH

# Ethical Guidelines

Statement of Ethical Principles for congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia

The Uniting Church seeks to be a Christian community which develops its life around worship, prayer, witness, biblical study, pastoral care, deep friendships and mutual accountability.

Membership of the Uniting Church in Australia is open to all who are baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Membership is about a relationship with other members both individually and collectively. Members, as part of a congregation, promise to participate in God's mission to the world, witnessing to Christ in word and deed as their gifts equip them and as recognised by the Church. As members we are encouraged to exhibit the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Galatians 5). Such participation is characterised by:

- commitment to God; participation in worship; faithful study of the Bible;
- ethical Christian conduct within the community;
- commitment to, and respect for, the councils and agencies of the Uniting Church;
- sharing and communicating information from councils and agencies of the Church;
- willingness to use and share individual gifts and skills;
- accountable, honest and non-abusive relationships;
- confidentiality; right relationships; sharing resources.

As a Christian community, if we speak of the power and wonder of faith in God without love, the community means nothing. Therefore a Christian community's faith and action shall be nurtured by love that never ends; that is faithful and kind; that does not insist on its own way; love which is not resentful but rejoices in the truth (1 Corinthians 13). It is this love which informs our belief that each member and adherent of the community has the right to:

- be listened to attentively and sensitively;
- have personal and sensitive information treated with confidentiality;
- a relationship with their Minister who fulfils the expectations of the Code of Ethics;
- receive ministry which responds to their needs and not the needs of the carer;
- participate in ministry and work which recognises the giftedness of each person, with access to sufficient training;
- participate in a safe ethical community where questions, fears, celebrations, vulnerabilities or breaches of ethical behaviour may be named;
- informed referrals to other professionals or agencies where there are limitations to the community's or individual's skills.

## For further information

If you wish to discuss the Ethical Guidelines further please contact:

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Congregational Secretary ([treasurer@pinerivers.org.au](mailto:treasurer@pinerivers.org.au)).